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Policy changes favorable to tuition benefits

The Kentucky National Guard Tuition Assistance Board recently announced three major policy changes that should assist most Guardsman who participate in the program. Under the state-financed program, eligible Guardsmen may receive reimbursement of up to 50 percent of tuition costs for attending Kentucky schools.

The statute limits benefits any individual may receive to \$750 in a 12-month period, but it does not define the period. Under current policy, each applicant has an individual year and may, therefore, be limited by the amount he received 12 months earlier. However, effective July 1, 1983, the year will be July 1-June 30 for everyone.

A Board official said that several test cases had been processed to determine the impact upon the individual applicant and it had been favorable in every case. For example, under the new policy if an individual receives \$750 for the spring 1983 term and applies for another \$250 for the fall term, he can receive it. Previously, he could not have received any additional money until one year and one

day after the spring 1983 check had been issued.

The Board, in a recent meeting, acknowledged that the new policy would probably be more expensive, but it should greatly simplify administration and be much fairer to the applicants.

Because of the increased benefits, as well as the constantly-growing number of applicants, the Board has also devised a priority system that will give low-ranking enlisted members and junior officers priority. Some applications of others may not be honored because of a lack of funds. The annual \$150,000 appropriation has been exceeded in each of the past two years.

Since priorities must be established, the Board will begin taking action on applications approximately two months into the principal terms. For example, applications submitted after the end of February for the spring term and after the end of September for the fall term may lose priority consideration.

Applications submitted after the end of

the term will not be considered under any circumstance.

In a final action, the Board also decided to thoroughly review "proprietary" schools approved for funding support. The Board noted in comments that these schools were added to the eligibility list chiefly to insure that persons seeking technical or business educations could benefit.

One Board member who was involved in the original development of the legislation noted that the intent of the program was to help Guardsmen improve their professional civilian skills or their talents that could be applied to their Guard positions.

In some cases, Guardsmen have apparently attempted to use the program as hobbyists or to pay for activities not essential for a degree, diploma, or professional certification. Some private flying schools will apparently be the most significantly affected by this review.

Any questions about tuition assistance policies should be directed to the Recruiting and Retention Headquarters in Frankfort.

Feb. 25-26

NGAKy announces plans for 52nd Annual Conference

By Spec. 4 Bob Walters

The National Guard Association of Kentucky will hold its 52nd Annual Conference on Feb. 25-26 at Louisville's Holiday Inn South.

The conference will begin at 9:15 a.m. Feb. 26 with the opening session for members, spouses, and guests. Two business sessions will be conducted by the Association President, Lt. Col. Don Waldner at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Socializing, dining and dancing are set for Saturday evening beginning at 6:30

with the President's Reception. The banquet will begin at 7:30 with a menu of New York strip sirloin steak, baked potato, green beans and all the trimmings. A Ball, featuring "The Bernie Smith Band," will follow at 9.

The "Spousevent '83" set for Saturday includes the Opening Roll Call, a visit with the Adjutant General, a tour of the Old Seelbach Hotel, and a trip to the Galleria.

The conference speakers include General Richard E. Cavazos, Commander of the United States Army Forces Command. Cavazos has held many major infantry

commands and has served on the faculty of the Command and General Staff College.

Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General will be among other guest speakers. He will speak on accomplishments and goals of the Kentucky Guard.

For those planning to arrive Feb. 25, there will be activities available. The National Guard Association of Kentucky will host an open hospitality suite from 6 p.m. to midnight, and a few Army and Air Guard Commands will have hospitality rooms open.

Mobile Guard unit compiling dental charts

By PFC Don Belisle

Members of one of the Kentucky Army National Guard's newest units are now looking into the mouths of Guardsmen. Major (Dr.) Charles Bradshaw, commander of the 973rd Medical Detachment, a dental unit, explained, "One of our two mobile teams was in Tompkinsville in January to begin screening Guardsmen."

The purpose of the screening, according to chief dental NCO SSgt. Dave Stewart, "is to compile dental identification charts of everyone in the Kentucky Army Guard. Our mission is first to complete the identification charts, with a long range goal consisting of emergency service."

During February and March, the dental unit will be examining soldiers at the Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort. Stewart says this will consist of a class on preventive dentistry and an examination.

Officer shortage causes concern

Though the Kentucky Army Guard's strength has been near or over 100 percent for many months, mobilization readiness is still lessened in some cases by a shortage of officers, according to Col. Ralph L. Palmore, chief of staff.

In a recent letter to all commanders, Palmore encouraged them to review the qualifications of enlisted members and discuss the possibility of attendance at the Kentucky Military Academy.

All applications for the June 1984 graduating class must be at the Fort Knox-based academy by April 15. They must be reviewed at several levels before reaching the school, so only a few weeks remain for submission.

Enlisted members interested in the commissioning process should contact unit commanders or first sergeants for qualification details.

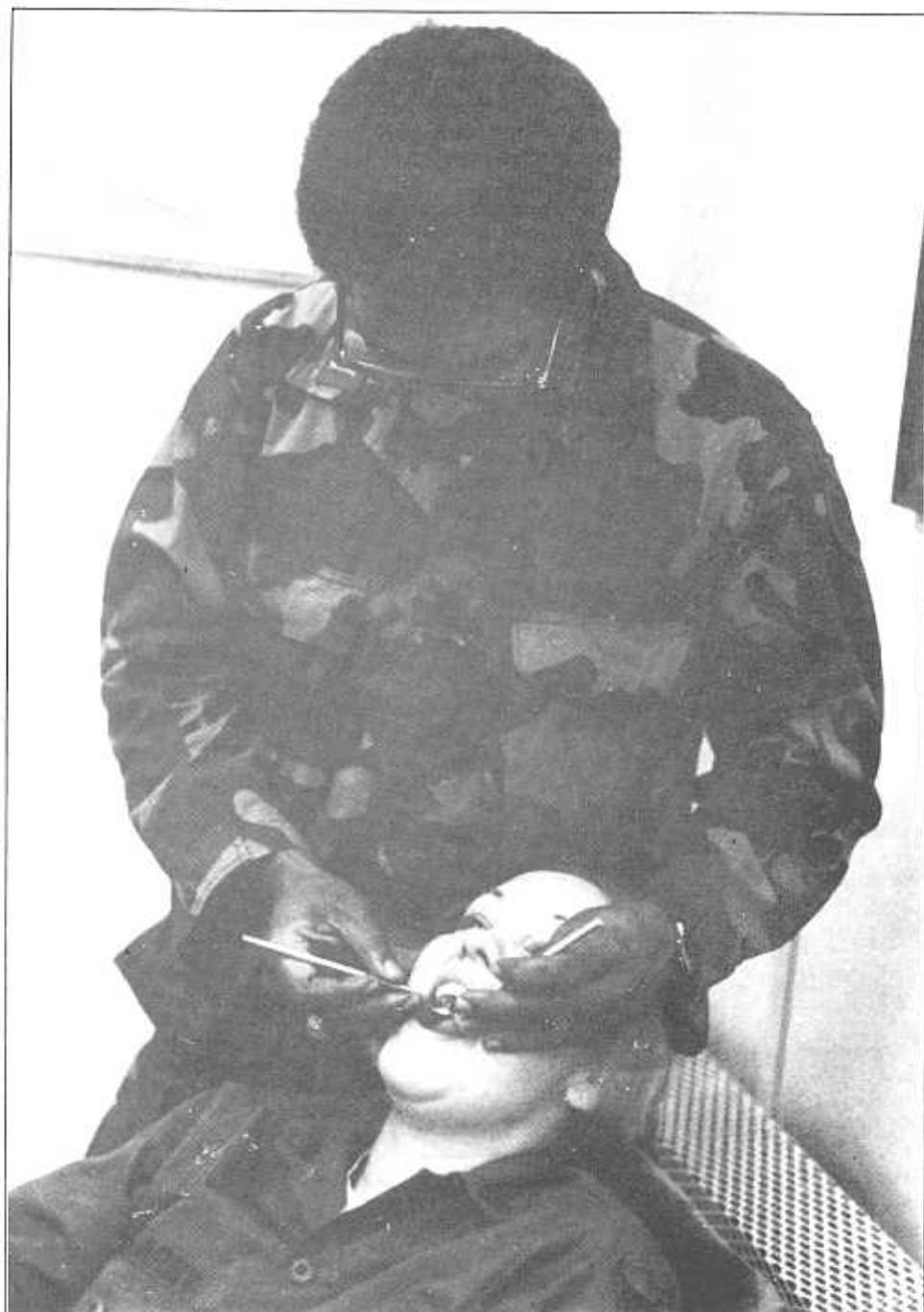
The dental unit is at 70 percent strength and includes four civilian dentists and nine dental students. Stewart said, "There are still openings for dental assistants, lab technicians and administrative clerks."

"One of our primary concerns is filling our slots," said Stewart. But he said it's just a matter of getting members of the unit through basic training, advanced training and back to the unit.

"It takes time, but once we get fully

organized, we'll be able to provide any type dental service," he said.

The dental unit will consist of two mobile dental teams and a stationary trailer at Frankfort. When at full strength, the unit will have 57 members. The dental unit will have the capability to perform any task from "fillings and root canal work to false teeth," said Stewart. "But the key is preventive maintenance and proper care of your teeth," said Stewart.



SENIOR DENTAL student 2LT Gary Hall performs an examination on dental hygienist Spec. 5 Leslie Kidd. The new dental unit will be examining Guardsmen during February and March at the Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort. (Photo by Spec. 4 Ed Armstrong)

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Demand for chaplains creates recruiting goal

By Capt. J. Gordon Nichols

Recently the Kentucky Army Guard has placed great emphasis on recruiting of chaplains.

Chaplains, like some other "professionals" such as doctors and lawyers, have been in critical demand in every state.

For the past few months the chaplains in Kentucky have spent time recruiting and interviewing prospective chaplain candidates. They have been quite successful.

"When their paperwork is processed we should have 14 chaplains," said CW4 Glenn Birdwhistell. The state can carry 14.

Chaplain Roger Winsett, of State Headquarters, stated the goal was to cover all units in the state with a chaplain.

"Some troops have not seen a military chaplain since basic training or Vietnam,"

said Winsett.

A great asset as far as Winsett is concerned is that these people are from varied denominations.

"In the past we have been basically Methodist and Baptist," Winsett said. The chaplains now being acquired include Nazarene, Assembly of God, and Church of God ministers.

"We have a Rabbi interested in our program and we've scheduled a meeting with the Catholic Archbishop of Louisville," said Birdwhistell.

Adjutant General Billy Wellman stated he was very happy to see this program begin to flourish.

"Our chaplains saw over 60 possible recruits in an eight day period," he said. "That shows they are committed to getting a program to every Guard member."

The Kentucky Guard is also looking at chaplain candidates. Such a person must be enrolled in a seminary pursuing an advanced degree as a minister.

Winsett said, "There are eight of these people enlisted in the Guard and soon we should have ten in the state."

Winsett said this is excellent training for a seminary student because it helps him learn to deal with large numbers of people.

"It is also a excellent opportunity to counsel people with a variety of problems," he added.

Chaplain Activities Specialists, the enlisted assistants for the chaplains, are also being sought. A non-prior service member can qualify for a \$2,000 bonus in this critical specialty. Anyone interested should contact the recruiter in his area and a chaplain will conduct an interview.

Employer Support tips

Supervisors need annual training information

By Sgt. Robert Pillow

Though annual training has been completed for only a few months, it's already time to begin planning for the 1983 sessions, and employers need information early, according to officials of the Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Reserve Component soldiers have certain legal rights to time off and employment benefits, but problems sometimes arise because employers don't know of their obligations and Guard members don't keep their employers advised of scheduled training.

Under federal law, for example, employers must allow their full-time employees who belong to the Guard leaves of absence for inactive duty training. This includes additional training assemblies, annual training, service schools, and other special training that an individual may require.

However, Maj. Gen. Billy G. Wellman, the Adjutant General, feels that legal action against an employer is not normally a desirable action and he has directed unit commanders to work to resolve problems in other ways—particularly through better understanding.

Lt. Col. Richard Jett, an Air Guard officer who provides administrative support to the Kentucky committee, said problems usually occur when immediate supervisors do not understand that they must give the Guardsmen time off. Although senior managers may be aware of the obligation, the word doesn't reach the operational level.

If a problem does arise, unit commanders have been instructed to try to work with employers to resolve the conflict. If they're not successful, they can contact Jett in Frankfort, who may refer the issue to one of seven district representatives of the Kentucky committee.

Meanwhile, the National committee offers Guardsmen the following tips to help with relationships:

Keep employers and supervisors posted on drill dates. By giving your supervisor at least a six month schedule, you allow him/her to arrange other worker's assignments to accommodate your absence.

Tell your employer about the productive things being learned and accomplished in uniform. Letting employers know the value of military training will frequently keep them from thinking of military leave as "a vacation away from work".

Thank your employer and supervisor for their cooperation. Employers should

know their efforts to make adjustments are appreciated by the employee and the unit commander. One way to accomplish this is to invite employers to visit the unit and participate in certain activities.

Use military training on the job. The Army runs some of the best technical schools in the world and many guard members are graduates. If possible, this training should be used on the civilian job and all opportunities should be taken to improve skills through advanced courses.

If job-related problems develop, you and your commander should try to resolve them by personal contact with the employer. If a satisfactory solution cannot be reached, ombudsman services are available through the state or national committee.

Tell employers about achievements. Whenever a unit member is promoted, completes a course, wins an award, or does something outstanding, the commander should write the employer and let him/her know. If possible, the employer should also be included in award programs.

List of jobs declared off-limits to women

At least 23 military occupational specialties have been declared off-limits to women enlisting in the Army and Army National Guard because of a study about women's role in the Army.

The specialties which have been closed to women are those which could likely be performed in combat situations, according to the study. (Federal law prohibits women from serving in combat.)

Many of the jobs no longer available to

women are in support and maintenance positions — radar repair, other electronic equipment repair, construction and building, NBC specialties and some helicopter repair positions.

Female soldiers now holding these positions will remain in the jobs, pending a final recommendation, Lt. Col. Larry Barker, personnel director, said. Very few women in the Kentucky National Guard will be affected by the new policy, which took effect Oct. 28, 1982, he said.

Members of 1155th train to fly Blackhawk

By PFC Don Belisle

With the approval of the Sikorsky UH-60A Blackhawk helicopter, members of the 1155th Transportation Company are training to fly and maintain the new craft.

Twelve members of the 1155th have completed a nine-week maintenance school at Ft. Eustis, Va. SFC Bo Thomas and SFC Robert Solomon are among those who have completed the course.

"It's one fine chopper," said Thomas. "After everyone is trained, there will be 43 people who will be involved in the hands-on maintenance of the craft."

"We've had to get some new tools, testing gear and other equipment to

perform maintenance on the Blackhawk," said Solomon, who is in charge of quality control.

Both men agree the UH-60A is a great thing for the Kentucky Guard. Solomon describes the new aircraft as "the Cadillac of helicopters."

They agreed, "It makes you proud to be the only Guard unit in the United States with such a helicopter!"

"At this point, we are still in the learning stage," Thomas said. "But we do have an inspection of the Blackhawk every seven days."

"It's so new, there haven't been any malfunctions but if there are, we must send special reports to the Sikorsky Company in Connecticut," Solomon said.

The Blackhawk is equipped to carry an 11-man infantry squad, in addition to a crew of four. It can carry more than four tons, including gun crews and artillery.

The Kentucky Guard now has five pilots who are qualified to fly the Blackhawk. Two, CW4 Jim Cline and 1st Lt. Lloyd Bailey, were the first Guardsmen in the nation to qualify on the aircraft. CW2 Wallace Walker, Lt. Col. Tom Quisenberry, and CW4 Bill Preston are also qualified.

"We learned just about everything during the course, including 97 different emergency procedures and actually simulated some of them," Walker said.

Walker said one of those simulations included killing the engines at an altitude of 1,000 feet.

"The Blackhawk handled it with no problem," boasted Walker. The helicopter is equipped with crash-worthy crew seats and energy-absorbing landing gear.

"The Blackhawk is just great!" said Walker. "It's one-third faster than the Huey (UH-1); it's more powerful and more maneuverable."

The helicopter is equipped with several back-up systems, two engines and other features which add to the craft's safety.

"It's like going from a Volkswagen to a Cadillac," said Walker.



SFC BO THOMAS checks the tail rotor on the UH-60A Blackhawk. Visual inspections like this are conducted every seven days. (Photo by Spec. 4 Ed Armstrong)



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